# North Jersey Clean Cities Program



**New Jersey Board of Public Utilities** 

# Quarterly Newsletter



Vol. 1 No. 1

February 2003

#### **Note from the Board of Public Utilities President**

Dear NJCCP Stakeholders,



Congratulations, on this, your inaugural North Jersey Clean Cities Program newsletter which will serve as an important tool to communicate news, initiatives and legislation to you and your members. NJCCP members are important partners in promoting clean cities across New Jersey. Clean cities directly impact the quality of life for every citizen in this State. I commend you for your steadfast commitment to encouraging individuals

and groups to use alternative fuel vehicles. The health of our State will depend in part on our use of cleaner technology, such as dedicated, bi-fuel and hybrid-electric cars. Thank you for your membership in NJCCP. Your participation and expertise are key to a cleaner New Jersey!

Sincerely,

Jeanne M. Fox

#### **New Clean Cities Coordinator at NJCCP**



The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) recently hired Antares Group, Inc. to assist with further developing and expanding the North Jersey Clean Cities Program (NJCCP). Art Vatsky, P.E., Antares' Northeast Regional Manager, will be serving as the new NJCCP Coordinator.

Art's career includes over 20 years of engine development experience, with

an emphasis on emissions reduction, and over 10 years working directly with alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) fleets. He has written for Utility and Telecom Fleets as well as Natural Gas Fuels magazine. Art brings knowledge and enthusiasm to the position, and we look forward to working with him in the coming year.

# **AFV Rebate Funding Still Available**

New Jersey's Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Rebate Program, administered by the BPU, has \$380,000 in funding available for the purchase of dedicated and bi-fuel AFVs, as well as hybrid-electric vehicles. Eligible applicants include local government agencies and authorities, as well as State colleges and universities. Rebate levels are shown at right:

For more information, contact Ellen Bourbon at 609-984-3058.



Vehicle Type	Typical Examples	Light Duty (<8,500 lb.)	Medium-Duty (8,500–14,000 lb.)	Heavy-Duty (>14,000 lb.)
Dedicated*	Honda Civic GX, Ford Crown Victoria CNG	\$4,000	\$7,000	\$12,000
Bi-Fuel**	Ford F-150 propane/gas, Chevy Cavalier CNG/gas	\$2,000	\$4,000	\$6,000
Hybrid- electric***	Toyota Prius, Honda Civic Hybrid	\$4,000	\$7,000	\$12,000

- \* Dedicated vehicle operates only on alternative fuel
- \*\* Bi-fuel vehicle is capable of operating on alternative fuel or gasoline
- \*\*\* Hybrid-electric Vehicle has a gasoline engine, with an electric motor

#### NJCCP 2003 KICKOFF MEETING HELD at NJTPA

Twenty dedicated NJCCP stakeholders braved the elements to attend the NJCCP meeting held during the first big snowstorm of the season. The meeting took place on December 5, 2002 at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) offices in Newark. Former NJCCP Coordinator Ellen Bourbon "passed the baton" to new Coordinator Art Vatsky, and guest speaker, BPU Commissioner Jack Alter, spoke on the role of the Board of Public Utilities

(BPU) in various energy applications.





## NGV Users Group (Try it. You'll like it!)

Several NJCCP stakeholders, including PSE&G, Air & Gas Technologies, Honda Motor Corporation, and FuelMaker Corporation, have formed the Natural Gas Vehicles (NGV) Users Group. They have set up loaner/demonstration programs with a number of NJ municipalities and colleges involving Honda Civic GX compressed natural gas (CNG) sedans and FuelMaker refueling appliances.

Recently, Cape May, Kearny, Guttenberg, Montclair, Rutgers University and Ramapo College have taken advantage of the demo program. (See feature story on Montclair Twp.). Eight natural gas vehicles have been ordered as a result. Other towns are signing up all the time. Will yours be next?

For more information, contact Dick Duffy, PSE&G at 973-430-7664 or Brian Keelen, A&GT at 732-566-7227.

Get on the list!

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#### FEATURE STORY - MONTCLAIR TOWNSHIP

The Township of Montclair recently acquired 4 Honda Civic GX natural gas fueled sedans for their fleet. The new vehicles are part of Montclair's efforts to advance the objectives of the Clean Air Act and reduce the local environmental impacts of the Township's fleet vehicles. The Township held a press conference in September to announce the new program. In attendance were Jeanne Fox, President of the New Jersey BPU, as well as Ellen Lutz, U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) Regional Administrator.

Montclair received a total of \$15,500 in rebates from the BPU, under the State's AFV Rebate Program, to help offset the increased price of the natural gas option. The new sedans, which have received a Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (SULEV) rating, are a great improvement over the SUVs in the fleet in terms of air quality, as well as fuel and maintenance costs.

Montclair installed a FuelMaker "time-fill" refueling appliance behind the Township's Public Works Building. To refuel, a vehicle is hooked up to the FuelMaker at night, and the natural gas is compressed and dispensed into the vehicle tank at the rate of about 1 gasoline gallon equivalent (gge) per hour.

The proactive steps taken by Montclair are reducing our dependence on foreign fuels, decreasing the pollution from vehicles and improving the environment and the overall public health.

For more information, contact Gray Russell, Montclair's Environmental Outreach program coordinator, at (973) 509-5721.

### ALTERNATIVE FUELS LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



- Federal Level: The Senate and the House continue to debate the merits of their competing versions of H.R.4. Both current versions would provide various incentives for the purchase of AFVs. The Senate version would also provide a \$.50/gge sales credit at retail for CNG, liquefied natural gas (LNG), propane and biodiesel (B100).
- State Level: Assembly Bill A3084, which would exempt biodiesel fuel from the State's motor fuels tax, was introduced by Assemblyman Reed Gusciora (D-Mercer) on December 12, 2002 and referred Assembly **Appropriations** to the Committee. An identical bill, S1731, was introduced by Senators Andrew Ciesla (R-Monmouth, Ocean) and John Bennett (R-Mercer, Monmouth) last June and referred to the Senate Budget Appropriations Committee December.

## VEHICLE UPDATE

- The Ford E-Series E-250, E-350, and E-350 Super Duty van/ wagons are now available with *CNG* as either standard vans or as cutaways.
- Get the latest information on available alternative fuel vehicles from all manufacturers by logging on to the USDOE's Clean Cities website: www.ccities.doe.gov



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# **Current/Planned Activities**

The NJCCP has plans to do the following in the year ahead:

- Update the NJCCP's Program Plan to reflect new stakeholders, revised commitments and updated program goals.
- Add new CNG station(s) in northern New Jersey
- Display a booth at the TransAction Conference, April 7-9 in Atlantic City.
- Increase AFV outreach efforts to colleges and universities.
- Update our NJCC member list the bigger the better!!
- Work closely with federal fleets in New Jersey
- Initiate a NJ Biodiesel Rebate Program for local governments

Did you know how the world's oil is distributed?...

Rank	County	Region	Reserves (Billion bbls)
1	Saudi Arabia	Mid East	261
2	Iraq	Mid East	113
3	Kuwait	Mid East	9 4
4	Abu Dhabi	Mid East	9 2
5	Iran	Mid East	90
6	Venezuela	S. America	73
7	Russia	A sia	4 9
8	Libya	A frica	30
9	M exico	N. America	28
10	C h in a	A sia	2 4

Greatest Oil Reserves by Country, 2000 (Source: Oil & Gas Journal, Dec. 1999.)

## Interested in becoming an <a href="NJCCP Member">NJCCP Member</a>?

It's easy! Contact Art Vatsky of Antares at 201-836-6285 or Ellen Bourbon, NJBPU, at 609-984-3058.

Mark your calendars! The next NJCCP quarterly meeting will be held at the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, One Newark Center on THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2003 at 9:30 AM Please plan to join us!